

# COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

## GENERAL ASSEMBLY

RICHMOND

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## **Anthony S. “Steve” Pike Selected to Lead Virginia Capitol Police**

- 23-year Law Enforcement Veteran Chosen by General Assembly’s Legislative Support Commission –
- Virginia Capitol Police America’s Oldest Police Department, Established in 1618 at Jamestown –

**RICHMOND, VA** – Virginia House of Delegates Speaker William J. Howell, chairman of the Virginia General Assembly’s Legislative Support Commission (Commission), today announced the appointment of Assistant Chief Major Anthony S. “Steve” Pike as the new Chief of the Division of Capitol Police at the seat of state government in Richmond. Virginia Deputy Secretary of the Commonwealth Christie Heath administered the oath of office at a ceremony in the well of the House of Delegates chamber to Colonel Pike, who officially assumed his new leadership post yesterday. Pike succeeds Colonel Kimberly S. Lettner who retired earlier this year.

Major Pike had been serving as the interim chief of the Commonwealth’s Division of Capitol Police in Richmond since July 1, 2011. As Chief, the newly promoted Colonel Pike is responsible for the Division’s sworn and support personnel who serve the Capitol community of the legislative, executive and judicial branches of Virginia’s state government, its employees and visitors. The Division of Capitol Police is a legislative branch agency reporting to the Legislative Support Commission chaired by the Speaker of the House. The Commission’s seven members unanimously selected Pike. He joined the Capitol Police as Assistant Chief in December 2010 following his successful competition against a nationwide pool of 96 law enforcement candidates.

“Like all members of the Legislative Support Commission, I am impressed by Steve Pike’s effective leadership, cooperative style of managing and his pragmatic approach to problem solving,” said **Speaker Howell**. “The fact that he was chosen so recently from such an exceptionally strong candidate pool, coupled with positive feedback from those working for and with Colonel Pike, made the decision an obvious one. He is thorough, always prepared and believes in not just doing a job but doing it right and without lots of fanfare. Colonel Pike is the right person to continue moving the Capitol Police forward toward new levels of success.”

“The Capitol Police plays an important role in ensuring the safety of those working in and visitors to the General Assembly,” noted **Senator Mary Margaret Whipple**, Chair of the Senate of Virginia’s Rules Committee and a member of the Commission. “Colonel Pike has impressed me as a knowledgeable, well-organized leader. The valuable strategic planning that he is doing with the division is especially noteworthy because it continues to build upon last year’s accreditation and further strengthen the performance of the many fine officers and staff he now leads. These activities will help ensure continued high performance by the Division of Capitol Police.”

A native of Wythe County, Virginia, Colonel Pike, 46, began his law enforcement career in 1988 with the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (DGIF). Having been named DGIF’s Officer of the Year in 1999, his most recent position there was serving as the Operations Major. Pike also served four years in the United States Army and was selected as the Honor Graduate after attending the Basic Noncommissioned Officer Course. In addition, he is a graduate of the 227th session of National Academy of the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI), the 64th session of the FBI Law Enforcement Executive Development Seminar, and the Commonwealth Management Institute. Currently, Pike is the president of the FBI National Academy Associates - Virginia Chapter.

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"I am extremely humbled and proud to be appointed by the Legislative Support Commission as Chief of the Division of Capitol Police," said **Colonel Pike**. "It is an honor to work alongside the great women and men serving in the oldest law enforcement agency in the United States. These dedicated professionals serve a vital public safety role providing progressive law enforcement and security services to Virginia's government officials, employees, citizens of the Commonwealth and its visitors. Working together, I look forward to preserving and advancing the high standards of the Capitol Police."

Colonel Pike is married to Ann Pike and they have one son, Justin. A member of Mount Vernon Baptist Church, Glen Allen, Virginia, Pike is active within the men's ministry programs. He also is an avid runner and has completed three marathons since 2007.

The appointment of Pike as Chief of the Capitol Police was welcomed by others.

"I am looking forward to working with Colonel Pike in his new role as Chief of the Division of Capitol Police," declared **Virginia Secretary of Public Safety Marla Graff Decker**. "I have enjoyed working with Steve in the past and am excited about the opportunity to expand our partnership as he assumes his new responsibilities. He has the knowledge, temperament and vision to serve as the new Chief. I have had the opportunity to work with the Division of Capitol Police over a number of years and I know line officers and supervisors have confidence in Steve's ability to lead the organization and to continue to build upon the accomplishments of their former chief, Colonel Kim Lettner."

"Colonel Pike came to the Capitol Police last year as the assistant chief after a comprehensive selection process that involved a nationwide search that produced 96 strong candidates," observed **retired Chief of the Virginia Capitol Police Kimberly S. Lettner**. "I was confident then about his leadership abilities and excited now that he has been appointed as the next chief of the Division. Steve's proven integrity, leadership and experience make him the ideal person to lead the highly devoted professionals that comprise the Division. As a team, Colonel Pike and all of the officers and staff will continue the advancing the Capitol Police's vision of 'Leading the nation since 1618 in securing, protecting and serving the seat of government and its people.'"

The Virginia Capitol Police is America's oldest police department. It was established in 1618 at Jamestown.

In addition to Speaker Howell and Senator Whipple, other members of the General Assembly's Legislative Support Commission are: House Majority Leader Delegate M. Kirkland "Kirk" Cox (R-Colonial Heights); Clerk of the Senate of Virginia Susan Clarke Schaar, Clerk of the Virginia House of Delegates G. Paul Nardo, Director of the Division of Legislative Services Robert L. Tavenner and Director of the Division of Legislative Automated Services Jay Landis.

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